For that reason and for the reasons advanced by the Advocate-General and Mr. Sivarama Menon, I consider that this amendment is relevant to the subject-matter of the resolution and therefore I allow Mr. Sivarama Menon to move his amendment.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

6. Supply of fresh water to littoral tracts lying to the North of British Vypeen.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): "*This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to ensure adequate supply of fresh water to such of the littoral tracts lying to the north of British Vypeen, as are badly in need of the same.*"

Sir, at the very outset, let me say that I come from those very regions, those unfortunate villages to which this resolution relates. I was born and brought up there and therefore it is with personal experience ranging practically for the whole of my life-time that I am going to speak upon this resolution. Probably, the hon'ble members if they just look beyond the beautiful backwaters that lie before them they will find that coastal tract with crowded cocoanut plantations. It is a very thickly populated area. But that region was once upon a time a very broad coastal tract and inhabited by a middle class population in very prosperous and thriving condition. But to-day if any hon'ble member will condescend to set his foot on that tract, indescribable misery will be found prevailing among the population. It is a miserable sight. People are too poor to find the Government officers. The place has been reduced to a narrow strip of land and the most elemental need which any human being requires, viz., water—that is rare in that territory. Sir, if you look on all sides, you find water everywhere. There is water in the sea, water in the front water in the backwaters—all over water—and when the monsoon time comes the whole place is submerged in water and water is our guest. When I was a boy student, my people had to leave the house all on a sudden by the unwelcome rush of the sea-water. These hardships the people suffer and have suffered for decades. And we cried and cried and the Government at that time was not considerate enough to take proper action in respect of our sufferings. The result has been that the broad territory which was once upon a time in a prosperous condition has reduced itself to a poor condition. That is

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the condition now. And the people owing to their grinding poverty have become mute. They are probably the dumbest of the dumb millions and the mutest of the mutes. When people are dumb and mute the Government have become deaf and between the muteness and dumbness of the people and the deafness of the Government, we have to suffer. That is the position we find to-day. I must tell the hon'ble members that it is not a territory of insignificance. Hon'ble members are aware of the great importance which that narrow piece of territory has for the Harbour. In fact, but for the existence of that narrow tract your much-boasted Harbour would not have been in existence. And again, the area is thickly populated. I do not know whether we can take a pride or whether we should feel sorry at the fact that our little State is one of the most congested regions in the whole world. In that congested State, the most congested area is that tract. Sir, it is that territory, that congested area, that coastal tract, which is of supreme importance for the very existence of our Harbour upon which the prosperity of our State depends. It is the people of that tract that has been ignored not in point of comfort, of luxury, but in point of a thing, which next to air, is the elemental factor man wants for existence. I need not dilate, Sir, upon the necessity felt there nor upon the indescribable and horrible suffering which the people are undergoing there. I hope that some day or other, our Diwan will set his foot on that territory; the Hon'ble Minister will surely be there. Let the Diwan will come there and see one day for himself that the women-folk have to walk miles and miles everyday for a pot of fresh water just for drinking and cooking purposes. Never has an inhabitant of that place the luxury of a fresh water bath. That is the condition there. The people, I am sorry to say, have been making representations to the Government for a very long time on this matter. I myself have attended several meetings. But these poor people's voice has been a voice in the wilderness, not for a few days, not for a few weeks, but for several decades. But occasionally a consoling reply will be received from the Government. Government sometimes say that the matter is under their consideration and the poor people were looking to the Government, and they were looking to the skies and the skies have been more favourable than the Government. And the last communication we received from the Government a few months ago was to this effect. I have not got the record here. It said that 'a pipe-line is extended to the Mattancheri Municipality and when that is completed, your question will be considered.' We hoped our question will be considered, when the pipe-line extends to

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Mattancheri and we took it in the sense that our question will be favourably considered, and after all this long waiting we thought our sufferings were about to end. And we were in sight of a promised land. But after the pipe-line was extended, we approached the Government again. An interpellation was put in the last session as the hon'ble members might remember and the reply was that nothing could be done in this matter by the Government. And, in the meanwhile, hon'ble members are aware, water was supplied to the Mattancheri Municipality. We have no complaint to water being supplied to anybody. Mattancheri is a town and it is a necessity there, being a very thickly populated area. When steps are being taken or have been taken to supply water to British Cochin whose inhabitants are not the subjects of our State and who are in a better position than these people in the coastal tracts, to say that nothing could be done in the matter of the supply of pure drinking water to those unfortunate people is I am afraid, not an act of justice and fairness in view of the fact that thousands and thousands of the subjects of the State have been crying and crying for the last so many years. I know definitely that there is a proposal, and arrangements are being made, I think, to supply water to British Cochin. This is the position and therefore, it is with great pity for the suffering of the poor that I bring this matter to the notice of the Government. These poor people see what is being done at Ernakulam—the towering buildings, the electrification, the beautiful roads and parks that are being constructed. We are glad that such improvements are made and our capital is beautified. But it is poor consolation for the suffering people to see these things and for themselves to have no water although there is water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink. That is the position. I therefore by means of this resolution bring this matter again before the Government hoping that the Government will understand our difficulties, the horrible situation that has been prevailing in this tract and see that this great want is supplied at an early date. I commend this resolution for the favourable consideration of the House. Let me remind them that it is not a luxury that we want, it is not a road, it is not anything of comfort that we want,—it is only water that we ask for and let that not be denied to the poor. With these few observations I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): I second the resolution.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): I rise to support the resolution, moved by the hon'ble member.

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Representing as I do a part of this littoral tract, I feel called upon to endorse every word of what the mover of this resolution has said. Even though I have not as much experience as the hon'ble mover himself, of these tracts, within the small experience that I have had in those places, I can boldly say that this is one of the primary needs of the people of the locality which any Government worth the name have to provide at any cost. It is not the first time that this question comes up in this House. This question has been in fact discussed in this House, on almost all occasions in one form or other, and I don't think any useful purpose will be served by my explaining in detail the horrible situation the people of the locality are put to, and the suffering of the people on account of lack of pure water. If in our State any place is more in need of pure Alwaye water, it is those littoral tracts and what has the Government done in this matter? As was said by the hon'ble member in his speech, in reply to a question the Government has said that with the existing pipe-line they find it very difficult to supply water to these littoral tracts. I am really surprised to get such an answer from the Government especially in view of the fact that this demand has been put forward for the last 10 or 15 years and unanimous verdicts have been given in favour of it. It is really surprising that the Government has thought it proper to give such a reply to an interpellation put by an hon'ble member of this House. Any way, from the very short experience I had of these littoral tracts, I can tell the hon'ble members of this House that even the water that is found within the cocoanuts there is saltish. I have had experience of it myself. So, that very fact will bring home to this House the urgent and pressing necessity of this problem and I suppose I need not explain any further about the sufferings of these people, especially since the mover of this resolution has so ably placed it before the House. I therefore commend this resolution for the unanimous acceptance of this House.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): At the outset, I mean to subscribe to every statement and every sentiment expressed by the hon'ble member Mr. Pylee. I don't propose to dispute one single statement of his but rather would augment his argument if necessary. But I do not think any additional argument is necessary to make out a very strong case, perhaps the strongest case has been made out by him. I may assure you in my individual capacity that nobody sympathises with the inhabitants of these littoral tracts more than I do. I myself have visited many of these tracts and with my own eyes have seen the miseries of the population in these

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littoral tracts. I have had various representations about the very same question and as I said I do not think it necessary to convince this House that additional arguments are necessary to substantiate the statements made by the hon'ble member sitting over there. I stand up here to explain to the House the difficult position inw hich the Government is placed. There are two ways of supplying good water. One is certainly bringing fresh Alwaye water. There is another possible way. That is by digging deep wells. With regard to the deep-well system, that comes within my department. And, if there is any possibility of relieving this hardship I have no doubt that we will only be too glad to undertake this work and see whether anything could be done. But the House must know with regard to the Alwaye water that in the first place it is not under the Rural Department. The difficulties that face the Government now, I wish to explain. In the first place, the pipe-line that is laid out now is not sufficient even to supply the needs of Mattancheri and Ernakulam. All the houses have not been given connection in Mattancheri and if we want to develop this water system, if we want to enlarge the area of supply, it is essential that we must lay down another pipe-line. It is true that by an agreement with the Travancore Government we are allowed another quantity, about 9 and odd lakhs of gallons of water. The charges and cost of laying this pipe-line will come to somewhere between 10 and 15 lakhs; certainly it will be more than 10 lakhs, but less than 15 lakhs. That money has to be found out. It will be a great benefit for the guidance of the Government if the hon'ble members of this House will suggest means and measures by which we can raise this amount. Various suggestions will be acceptable. I can assure the House that the Government do not think that there is any question which ought to attract its attention, there is any question, that stands in immediate need of solution, as this one. But the difficulty is, with the best of intentions, where there are no means, how to translate those intentions into actions. The term of the resolution 'north of Vypeen' includes all other tracts, viz., Narakkal, Pallipuram, Cherai, Chendamangalam, Cranganur. So, there is no doubt in my mind that if you want to solve this question satisfactorily the only way is by extending this pipe-line from one end to the other. The problem of one portion of the area is the same as of another with this difference, viz., in Vypeen, the hardship is much greater than that of some other parts. The statement that cocoanut water is saltish is true. After having placed before the House the difficulties that face the Government to solve this question, I am requesting this House to suggest ways and means so as to help the Government to solve this

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problem. There is no conflict of opinion at all here. We must somehow or other devise means by which this question may be solved. Then there is another question which is beyond the purview of the House. According to agreement we can only get a fixed quantity of water from the Alwaye river. The agreement is for the supply of water to Ernakulam and Cochin. I honestly hope that no civilised Government will oppose the demand for drinking water from the river when the river is simply flowing. Therefore, I sincerely hope and I honestly believe that that difficulty can be got over. But, how to face these difficulties? As I began and as I wish to conclude, there is no grievance which is so genuine and which ought to move the sympathies of the House and the sympathies of the Government than this question of water supply to these places. I do not think we will be able to say anything more on the subject. This is not a question of voting or not voting. We are as anxious as you are and the House will understand all these implications, and if they will suggest some means, it will be of great help to the Government.

Then, there is another thing. When a steamer comes into the Harbour, you have to give facilities to the steamer and the passengers. It is the duty of the Harbour authorities to supply water and provisions and other amenities, so as to attract train and passenger traffic to our Harbour. If your intention is that our Harbour should lose its revenue, it is alright. It is essential that the Harbour should be a success considering the large amount of money that we have already invested. We have got able representatives on the Harbour Board like our friend Mr. Popatlal to represent the Cochin point of view in the Advisory Committee. Even supposing tomorrow, we won't give water to the Harbour. Will that solve our problem? Suppose we prohibit giving any more water to the Harbour, this problem will not be solved. It must be faced boldly and some measure of far-reaching importance should be resorted to to give water to those large littoral areas, those thickly populated areas. That is the position of the Government.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): How are you in a position to find 3 lakhs for the guest house?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Even with 3 lakhs this question will not be solved. If you want to meet the needs of these population you will require not less than 20 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Ernakulam*): Mr. President, Sir, while thanking the Hon'ble Minister for the unqualified

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admission of the facts alleged by the mover of the resolution and the hon'ble member for Trippunittura who seconded it, I have only to ask whether ways and means to solve this problem can better be found by a discussion of the methods to be adopted, now and here on the floor of this House, than in a committee with necessary data. So far as I am concerned, the facts within my knowledge will I think enable a committee to put forward a reasonable proposal, but there are certain delicacies standing in the way of these facts being mentioned here. Such a course may be thwarting the very purpose we have in view. I would therefore suggest that a small committee be constituted by Government to submit a workable scheme. It may be quite possible to float a loan without charging the general revenues and provide a sinking fund for paying off that debt, to finance a scheme of water supply. If more money is required, the Government will have to make a contribution. Government is only anxious to find out the wherewithal to work out the scheme by which to supply water, and their sympathy can be translated into action. Therefore, I beg to suggest that Government will be pleased to constitute a committee to find out the ways and means as to how these littoral tracts can be supplied with water and upon the report of that committee, Government will be able to pass final orders, if there are means by which money can be got, I do not for a moment think that Government will shirk the responsibility in the light of the responsible statements made by the Hon'ble Minister. The Government will be pleased to give us some sort of assurance that this question will be thoroughly threshed out in a committee, regard being had to the extreme necessity of the people of these tracts for good drinking water.

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin Christians-Cranganur*): I rise to support the motion. I do propose that as Mr. Sivarama Menon has remarked to-day, unless something practical is done in the form of constituting a committee, I am sure this problem will be endlessly delayed and no solution will be found. I remember in the last Budget Session of the Council of having talked about the problem to the Chief Engineer himself. When I told the Chief Engineer about the want of water in the different tracts, he was also showing the same kind of sympathy which the Hon'ble Minister has been expressing a minute before and he has also assured me that he would be preparing a plan and submitting it before Government for action. His plan, as he said, was to supply water through barges as he used to do for Mattancheri. Afterwards when I happened to meet the Diwan he was telling me that it was a most impracticable scheme and that there was no use of bestowing any thought over a plan

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like that. So if the schemes are to be continued like that, one man suggesting one thing from one corner and another man thinking in a different way, I am sure the problem will never be solved. Therefore in my opinion, the most practicable way of tackling this problem is to appoint a committee and to get as soon as possible a scheme prepared whereby these sufferings of the people of these areas can be minimised.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: സർ, മിസ്റ്റർ ശിവരാമമേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞതായ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതായാൽ വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കും. വായുവത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പൈപ്പ് ഐലൻറിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക മുഴവനും വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ട്. അതു നടപ്പാക്കുവാൻ താമസം വരുമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പൈപ്പിൻെറ തെക്കെ അറ്റത്തുള്ള ഏതാനും ആളുകൾക്കുമാത്രമെങ്കിലും ഉടനെ വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതിലേക്കുവേണ്ടി ഇതു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഞാൻതന്നെ പല പ്രാവശ്യവും വാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അന്നു് ഇതു കാര്യത്തിൽ ശവമ്മെണ്ടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള പ്രതിജ്ഞക്കു വിപരീതമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരഭിപ്രായമാണു് ഇപ്പോൾപറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിക്കു പൈപ്പു ലയിൻ ഇട്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ബാജ്ജസ്സു് മുഴവനും ഒഴിവാകും, അപ്പോൾ ഇതു ആവശ്യത്തിനു് ആ ബാജ്ജസ്സ് ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതാണു് എന്നു് ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ അവർകളും മറ്റും പ്രോമിസ്ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മിനിസ്റ്റർ....

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Let me ask a question. Did the Government give any assurance? It is for my information that I am asking.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: ഇതു കൌൺസിലിൽവെച്ചുമാത്രമല്ല, ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ അവർകളും മുമ്പിലത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും പല പ്രാവശ്യവും സഭകാര്യമായിട്ടും കൂടി പ്രോമിസു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ബാർജസ് ഒഴിവായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അഴീക്കലേക്കു വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നാണു് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുന്ന അതു് അസാദ്ധ്യമാണെന്നു്. വെള്ളം തികയുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുന്ന കാരണം. അഴീക്കൽ മാത്രം കൊടുപ്പാൻ വെള്ളം ഉണ്ടായേക്കുമെന്നു് അറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. വലിയ ചിലവു വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണത്രെ ഇപ്പോൾ ശവമ്മെൻറ് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽനിന്നു് ഒഴിയുന്നതു്. എത്രതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായാലും അതു ശവമ്മെൻറ് സഹിക്കണം. ഈ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കും കൊച്ചി ശവമ്മെൻറിനും ഉള്ള ഏറ്റവും വലുതായ ബാദ്ധ്യതയുള്ള കാര്യമാണിതു്. തേങ്ങയുടെ വെള്ളത്തിൽ കൂടി ഉപ്പുള്ള അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ യാതൊരു സൌകര്യക്കേടും പറയാതെ തെക്കെ അറ്റത്തുള്ള ഏതാനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കെങ്കിലും ഉടനെ വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. മിസ്റ്റർ ശിവരാമമേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽ വരുന്നതുവരെയും ഉപ്പുവെള്ളം കുടിക്കട്ടെ എന്നു വിചാരിക്കാതെ ശവമ്മെണ്ടു അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കുടിക്കുവാനുള്ള വെള്ളമെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കണം.

ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്കൊച്ചിക്കു വെള്ളം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിക്കാർക്കും വേണ്ടത്ര വെള്ളം കിട്ടുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. കൂടുതൽ വെള്ളം കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ ശവമ്മെണ്ടു നടത്തി അനുവാദം വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനു് ഞാൻ ശവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ വളരെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. പണച്ചിലവു് കൂടു

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തലാണെന്നുള്ള കാരണവും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ അഴീക്കൽക്കാർക്കു വെള്ളം കിട്ടുകയില്ല. കുടിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുള്ള വെള്ളമെങ്കിലും ബാർജിൽ കൊണ്ടു പോയി കൊടുക്കണം.

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: എത്രയുണ്ടാകും സ്ഥലം?

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): It is about a mile.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: അധികമൊന്നുമില്ല. ഓച്ചന്തുരുത്തിൽനിന്നും വെള്ളം ചുമന്നുകൊണ്ടു വരുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നവരെ ഇതിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കുക. വെള്ളം കിട്ടാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവരായി ഈ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളല്ലാതെ വേറെ ആരുമില്ല. ഇതു ഗവൺമെൻറിനും ഇവിടെയുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിവുള്ളതുമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മറ്റു കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ ഇതും നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാതെ ഉടനെ ചെയ്യണമെന്നേ എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഈസ്സാ സേട്ട്: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്, സർ, വൈപ്പിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന സാധുജനങ്ങൾക്കു് കുടിക്കുവാൻ നല്ലവെള്ളം ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ള മുറവിളി കുഴിഞ്ഞ കൌൺസിലിലും ഞാൻ കേൾക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്റെ അറിവിൽ പെട്ടിടത്തോളം വളരെക്കാലം മുമ്പുതന്നെ ഈ മുറവിളി ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവൺമെൻറു് അതിന്നെല്ലാം തല്ക്കാലം പണമില്ലെന്നും മറ്റും ഒഴികഴിവു പറഞ്ഞുവരികയാണു് പതിവു്. മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വന്നപ്പോൾ ചില സ്വകാര്യ സമ്മതങ്ങളും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ അതൊന്നും നടപ്പാക്കിക്കാണുന്നില്ല. ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ശുദ്ധജലം കൊടുക്കാതെ ഈ നിലയിൽതന്നെ ഉപ്പുവെള്ളം കുടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അവർ ജീവിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതായാൽ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തു് ഇങ്ങിനെയൊരു പട്ടണംതന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവോ എന്നു് സംശയിക്കുവാനിടവരും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മിസ്റ്റർ ശിവരാമമേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിവെച്ചു് വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു നല്ല കാര്യം തന്നെ. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയൊരു കമ്മിറ്റി വച്ചു് അതിന്റെ തീരുമാനത്തിന്നശേഷം വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കാമെന്നുവരുമ്പോൾ കാലതാമസത്തിന്നിടയാകും. ഇപ്പോൾ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ വെള്ളം സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ബാർജസു് ഒഴിവായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ ബാർജസിൽ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതായാൽ തല്ക്കാലം അവിടെയുള്ളവർക്കു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവൺമെൻറുമായി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള എഗ്രിമെൻറു് അനുസരിച്ചു ഇപ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ വെള്ളം എടുക്കാവുന്നതുമാണു്. പൈപ്പുലയിൻ കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയാണെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ അതിനു് ബ്രിട്ടീഷു് കൊച്ചിയിൽക്കൂടിയേ തരമുള്ളു. അങ്ങിനെ കണക്ഷൻ എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷു് മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നും തക്കതായ സംഖ്യ നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെൻറിനു് കിട്ടുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മിനിസ്റ്റർ വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പിറ്റർ: സർ, വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യം എല്ലാരാജ്യത്തും സാധാരണ ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ കോസ്റ്റൽ ഏറിയായിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ അത്യാവശ്യം ഈ സാധാരണയിൽ പെടുത്തത

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ക്കതല്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ ഹെർബട്ട് ടിവാൻജിയായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം എന്റെ സ്വദേശം സന്ദർശിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു് ഒരു മംഗള പത്രം സമർപ്പിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളേയും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇഷ്ടത്തേയും കാംക്ഷിച്ചു് ഉടനെതന്നെ വെള്ളം തരാമെന്നു് പ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്കയും അതുപോലെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതിലും കഷ്ടമായ ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണു് വൈപ്പു്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പല പ്രാവശ്യവും പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും, ഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തോടുകൂടി പാസ്സാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ മെഷനം ഒന്നുമാത്രമാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ കാര്യസാദ്ധ്യത്തിനു് വിഘാതമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിനു വലുതായ തുക ചിലവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞു് പുറകോട്ടു പോകേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

വൈപ്പിൻ പ്രദേശത്തു് ഏകദേശം രണ്ടായിരം കുടികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് തോന്നുന്നതു്. ആ രണ്ടായിരം കുടികൾക്കു് ബാർജിൽ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. അതിനു് വലിയ ചിലവും വരുകയില്ല. പിന്നെ അവിടെ നാലോ അഞ്ചോ ഇഞ്ചു് പൈപ്പു് വേണ്ടിവരും, അതു് ഒരു മൈൽ ദൂരത്തെ മാത്രമേ ആവശ്യമുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോൾ എറണാകുളത്തു് വേസ്റ്റായി പോകുന്ന വെള്ളം മാത്രം ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ ഇതിലേക്കു മതിയാകുന്നതുമാണു്. വേണമെങ്കിൽ വെള്ളത്തിനുള്ള വില തരുവാനും അവർ തയ്യാറാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവൺമെൻറു് ഈ സംഗതി ശരിയായി ഗണനിച്ചു് പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു. കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരിക്കേണ്ടതും ആവശ്യമാണു്. കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരണത്തിനു താമസമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനുമുമ്പു തന്നെ മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പൻ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഉടനെ കുറെ സ്ഥലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടിഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പുറവലാൽ ഗോവിന്ദലാലൻ: പ്രസിഡണ്ടു്, സർ, വൈപ്പിലും മറുഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കും വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞതിനു് ഞാൻ നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നകാര്യത്തിൽ പൈപ്പുവഴിയായി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ചില പ്രോമിസുകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പരസ്യമായി പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടതിൽനിന്നു അതു് സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു നിലയാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി ആ സ്ഥലം സന്ദർശിച്ച അവസരത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു് അവിടെയുള്ള തെങ്ങിലെ വെള്ളവും ഉപ്പുള്ളതാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഡ ഠ -ം, ന ാ -ം ലക്ഷത്തിന്റെ കണക്കുകളാണു പറയുന്നതു്. നേരെ മറിച്ചു നല്ല വെള്ളം കിട്ടുന്ന കിണറുകളും കുളങ്ങളും ഉള്ള ടിക്കിൽ അവയൊക്കെ മൂടി പൈപ്പിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് സാധുക്കളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽമാത്രം ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ പറയുന്നതു് തീരെ യോജിച്ചതല്ല. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) ഇപ്പോൾ കപ്പലിൽ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ബാർജിൽ ആണു്. ആ ബാർജിൽതന്നെ വെള്ളം ഈ ആളുകൾക്കും കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ അതിലേക്കു കൂടുതലായി ചിലവൊന്നും വേണ്ടിവരുകയില്ല. അവിടെ ഒരു ടാങ്കു് മാത്രം കെട്ടി ബാർജിൽനിന്നും വെള്ളം അതിലേക്കു പമ്പുചെയ്തു സ്റ്റോക്കുചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഉടനുവേംകൊണ്ടും മറ്റും കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന നമ്മുടെ സാധുക്കളായ സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാർക്കു കുടിക്കുവാനുള്ള വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. കപ്പലിൽ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അവിടെനിന്നും വൈപ്പിലേക്കു വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വലിയ ദൂരമൊന്നുമില്ല. വളരെ അടുത്താണു്. ഇവിടെ ചീഫ് എഞ്ചി

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നീയർ അവർകൾ ഫാജരില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അവിടെ ഒരു റിസർവായർ കെട്ടുവാൻ എന്തു ചിലവാകുമെന്നു ചോദിച്ചറിയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെങ്കിലും അധികം പണച്ചിലവുണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൌസിൽ ധരുന്ന മാന്യ അതിഥികൾക്കു കുടിക്കുവാനും കുളിക്കുവാനും മറ്റു പലതരത്തിൽ കുളയുവാനുംവേണ്ടി വെള്ളം ശേഖരിക്കുവാനായി ഇപ്പോൾ കെട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു റിസർവായർപോലെയുള്ള ഒന്ന് അവിടെ കെട്ടിയാൽ മതിയാകും. അതു കെട്ടുവാൻ മാത്രമുള്ള പണംകൂടി ഇല്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അത് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു വളരെ ലജ്ജാകരമാണ്. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു വേറെ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിലും ബാർജിൽ ശേഷിപ്പുള്ള വെള്ളമെങ്കിലും കൊണ്ടുപോയി ഓരോകുടം വെള്ളം വീതം ഓരോ വീട്ടുകാർക്കും കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുവരെ ട്രഷറി ബഞ്ചിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും വെള്ളം കുടിക്കാതിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രതമെടുക്കണം (ചിരി). നിങ്ങളെല്ലാം നല്ല വെള്ളം കുടിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവരുടെ സങ്കടം എന്താണെന്ന് നിങ്ങളാരും അറിയുന്നില്ല.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): If Mattancheri people will take an oath like that we will be able to supply water.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പുറമലാൽ ഗോവിന്ദലാലൻ: മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ വോത്തുകൊണ്ടാണ് അവിടെയുള്ളവർക്കു വെള്ളം കിട്ടിയതു്. ആയതുകൊണ്ട് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മിനിസ്റ്റർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെതന്നെ ഈ കാര്യത്തിലും വോത്തു എടുക്കാം. മറ്റുള്ള ഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കുകൂടി വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരു കമ്മറിവെച്ചു അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് വരുമ്പോഴേക്കു സമയം വളരെ ടീർഫ്ചിച്ചുപോകും. അതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനുമുമ്പു് മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ വെള്ളം കിട്ടാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവരായ നമ്മുടെ സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാർക്കു കുടിക്കുവാനുള്ള വെള്ളമെങ്കിലും ഉടനെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): I move for a closure of the debate.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): I second it.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): Sir, I am very grateful for the amount of sympathy that has been evinced by the Hon'ble Minister on this question and since the points are not disputed, there is not much for me to add to what I have already stated. If there is a will, there is a way and after expressing sympathy, the Minister's arguments seem to be that it is impossible for want of funds.

In the course of the discussion, certain suggestions have been brought forth on the floor of the House by the hon'ble members. It appears that there will be about 9000 gallons to spare. So the question of supplying these tracts which are most badly in need of water can be met with the balance of water that is now available. And if all these tracts, as the Hon'ble Minister

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said, as far as Chennamangalam, have to be supplied, well, a new agreement can be made with the Travancore Government. After all under the agreement, the Travancore Government will get royalty, and the Travancore Government when they hear of the immense sufferings of our people will sympathize with us and will be amenable to our request.

But I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble members now to the surplus of water that could be utilised to alleviate the sufferings of these people who are most in need of it.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Will you illustrate that point, that there is surplus water.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): That fact has been revealed by my friend here.

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin Christians-Cranganur*): The Chief Engineer was telling me that about 9000 gallons can be spared.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): If there is even only 10 gallons surplus, please spare it. That is the situation. But here, according to the hon'ble member, there is a balance of about 9000 gallons. Even on the question of finding funds, I should think that it is simply throwing up hands by Government. To say water could not be supplied to the needy for want of funds is rather disgraceful. "Impossibility" is a word in the dictionary of fools, and I say that the Government of His Highness does not come under that category. Therefore, if there is a will, there is a way and money can be found for it.

The Hon'ble Minister stated that it is a larger question than what has been brought under this resolution, and it is not the small problem to supplying water to a small area, but it is a large problem for a larger area and that so many villages have to be supplied with water. It is a question then that pertains to a very large portion of the State and that portion being a continuous area, a compact area, why not the Government start a scheme and solve the question once for all. Why should the Government throw up arms helplessly and say 'we have no money'. Has not money been found for many other things—for things that are not necessary, for things that are catering to the luxuries of others. Is not money found for these? I bring this fact to the notice of the hon'ble members that of all the great officials of the State, there is none except probably the Diwan Peishkar who goes to those places and he knows

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the conditions well. Why do not the others care to go to those places? Are they waiting for invitations? Are they awaiting that addresses should be presented to them and that they should be garlanded? We have no money for all those things. Our people are poor. One Diwan once went to Chellanam and he was garlanded there and was given an address and he gave water. We have no money to spare for addresses. We have no money to spend on garlands. When the Government officials get information of misery prevaling in any part of the State, they must of their own initiative visit the place uninvited and do the needful instead of waiting for invitations, garlands and addresses. That being so Sir, this sort of shirking of duties is a disgrace to a Government, especially to the Government of a highly progressive State like ours. Therefore my humble submission is that this matter may be seriously viewed. I remember to have read that at the opening of the Shanmukham Road at Ernakulam, the Diwan remarked that because it was in his neighbourhood, he thought that the place must be improved first though he said that it was a selfish policy. He is a very practical man, and so he saw that his neighbourhood is cleaned and a good road was constructed. May be for a joke that he said like that. It appeared in the Madras Mail which had a sub-leader on the subject. With all deference to the Diwan, I ask him to come and spend a few days in Azhikkal so that he may understand the condition of the neighbourhood of his temporary residence also. I do not think it is practicable. I do not extend the invitation in a serious mood. Such being the condition, why not Government attempt to do something in the near future. Certainly the suggestion made by the hon'ble member, Mr. Ayyappan that immediate relief should be given to these people who are most badly in need, at least that can be expected from our Government—if the Government of His Highness deserve the name of a civilized Government. So I request that something might be immediately done.

Let me conclude with the observation that since it is a larger question than what is indicated in the resolution, the suggestion made by Mr. Sivarama Menon should also be considered. My request is that both these suggestions should be taken up—the suggestion of Mr. Ayyappan for relieving the immediate distress and the suggestion of Mr. Sivarama Menon for tackling the larger problem. Immediate action should be taken on the matter. I have nothing to add. I once again express my gratitude on behalf of these people at the sympathy shown by the House on this question and I am sure that sympathy is not dry. Therefore I submit this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

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Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, I may assure at the very outset that if officials do not visit these places, it is not because of the fear that they do not get garlands, but because most of them had no occasion to go. Those who have business go there. I hope my friend will persuade these poor villagers not to show any outward manifestations of this kind, and I would be personally very grateful for that. As I have stated the position remains the same. The only new point raised is about the emergency and nobody questions the emergency for supplying good water to that limited area called Vyppeen by means of a barge. But I am going to spring a surprise on the House by observing that the barges excepting one have been sold.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): Were they sold in spite of the promises ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I do not know exactly what promise was made. But I do know the existing fact that all barges have been sold out excepting one. I am just giving a statement of fact. I remember Mr. Viswambharan putting a question about the reinstatement of the persons in the barges. One barge is available and it is being used for giving water for the Harbour.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): I suggest that with the money realised by selling barges you can buy new ones.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am dealing with the question of emergency. If the barges were here perhaps the House may think why not undertake this work forthwith.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Is the barge used for the whole day for the purpose of supplying water to the Harbour?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am informed that it is necessary. The second point is that we are privileged to take 9 lakhs of gallons of water from the Alwaye river and that we are consuming only 8·1 lakhs of gallons. We do that because we could not take more than that with the existing pipe-line. Therefore, unless there is a surplus quantity of water it will be very difficult to supply it to these tracts. When you say about the surplus of 8 or 9 thousand gallons, of course, I personally understand that. But on behalf of the Government may I say that there is no sufficient water to supply and as things

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stand connections are not given to Mattancheri. I do not think that the generous enthusiasm exhibited by my friends here would be shown as a matter of fact. I do not think so because from past experience when they were given water by barges they were very anxious that pipe-lines should be laid down and house connections should be given. They were pressing for that in this House and they got it. Now these two gentlemen representing Cochin come with the handsome proposal that for the time being house connections need not necessarily be extended. If that be the case there may be some chance of Government considering this question. But as things stand, there is scarcity of water. With regard to this small Vyppeen I think proper representations shall be made and this question has to be considered by the Government. Then with regard to the request of my friend Mr. Sivarama Menon this also will receive the earnest consideration of the Government in the near future.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): On a point of information Sir, will the barges be necessary when wharves are constructed and when the ships touch the Island?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am not in a position to say. I do not know their requirements. It will be a folly on my part to say yes or no. There is no pipe connection there now.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Can I take it that the Minister's responsibility is confined to the money which he has got to spend?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The Minister is responsible only about giving wells and such minor things. I may state here that I am negotiating with proper authorities as to the conversion of bad water to good water. This is the only way my poor department can do anything. The House may know that.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): In Alleppy they are supplying water from the wells.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am investigating all possible ways by which somehow or other drinking water could be given. Beyond that nothing is possible for me. But when I reply I should reply for Government. There could not be part of the reply from me and the other part from another. I wanted to explain the real situation. But some solution, even though it falls short of the ideal, I will try my very level best to evolve.

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Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Whether the subject matter of this resolution falls within the portfolio of the Minister ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): No. Generally it comes under P. W. D. We are answering that question because there is a word 'rural' there and also because I am very much interested in the problem of supplying water.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): But the Minister's position will be mis-understood by his reply.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I do not think that our people are such fools.

The resolution was put and carried.

The House stood adjourned at 5 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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